An ACCOUNT of the

Life of Dr. *Henry Sacheverel*,

Chaplain of St. *Saviours*, *Southwark*, and Fellow of *Magdalen* College in *Oxford*: Shewing his Family and Education, his Preferments, Preachings, and other Memorable Paſſages. With the moſt remarkable Speeches and Paragraphes in his Sermons, particularly, that of the 5th of *November*, 1709. Preach'd at St. *Pauls*, *London*, before the Lord Mayor, and the Court of Aldermen, for which he was Cenſur'd by the Lords and Commons, and Order'd to be Impeach'd of High Crime and Miſdemeanors. With their Proceedings.

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THE LIFE OF Dr. *Henry Sacheverel*, &c.

IN recounting some of the most memorable Passages of the Life of this Gentleman, (which by a short Enquiry I have been able to inform my self of) it may perhaps be suppos'd; that I shall precipitately chime in with the present Clamour against him, and with a small addition to the Phrases of his Enemies, or such who have wrote in contradiction to his Principles, turn this Work into a Satyr, both on his Parts and Person; but as I am neither prejudic'd against him, nor Possess'd with any opinion in his Favour, I shall run a middle course between Truth and Impartiality; and leave it indifferent both to his Friends and Enemies to build what Conjectures they think fit.

As to his Family, I have not indeed heard any of his veriest Enemies ground their Reflections there, and without much Search, we may easily discover him to be well Descended, the Name having flourish'd for some Ages in the Shires of *Leicester*, *Derby* and *Warwick*. What I shall therefore principaly speak of his, that he came of a very considerable Branch of this Family, seated in the last of these Countries, from whence his Father, who was an eminent and worthy Divine, was afterward Translated into *Wiltshire*, where he became Rector of St. *Peter's* Church in the Town of *Marlbrough*; In this Town Mr. *Sacheverel* was Born in the Year 1674, and brought up and Educated at the Free-School there under the care of one Mr. *Carr*, then School-Master, till he was about 16 Years of Age, and then his Father, by the Interest he had in the Bishop of *Sarum*, and *Worcester*, sent him to *Maudlin*, or *Magdalen* College in *Oxford*, where he so far improv'd his Learning, that he was soon taken Notice of for a very early proficient in Study, and a strenuous Disputant in the Schools: As to his Behaviour here I never heard any thing remarkable farther, than that he still plied his Study. which he turn'd to that of Divinity, and after, having gradually taken his other Degrees, he Commenc'd Dr. in Divinity in the Year 1708, and is now Fellow of the said Colledge,

Whilst I am speaking of his Education, I cannot pass by some Words lately Printed in a Pamphlet, Entituled, A *True Answer to Dr.* Sacheverel *Preach'd before the Lord Mayor*, &c. which is as follows.

I am perfectly sick of his Reflections, directly or by inuendo, *upon other Bishops, particularly on the Bishop of* Sarum, *who has done him no manner of harm, but to bring his poor Mother into an Hospital for Life, and to give her the Bread her Son could not afford her. Ingratitude is somewhat more than ill Manners. The Doctor began these Civilities at* Oxford. *He was there the known Author of a Pamphlet, about the* Character of a High or Low Church-Man: *And happening to owe his Education, his little Cure, and his Mother's Livelihood, to the Bishop of* Coventry and Litchfield, *the Bishop of* Worcester, *and the Bishop of* Sarum, *all very worthy Prelates, he chose out these three, and made them a bountiful Return of Calumnies and Scandal.*

Now what this Author means further, than (as I have observ'd) that he was beholding to those Reverend Prelates for their Countenance, or perhaps, promoting his Interest in the University, I cannot learn, but as to that part of his Mothers being helpt into an Hospital, I am very well assur'd she is not in any such Place, (nor I cannot hear ever was) but is at this time living, and has a very handsome and plentiful Provision for her Subsistance. I do not mention this as if I was going about to vindicate him from every Reflection made on him but as I have it from good Hands to be nothing but Truth and matter of Fact: But to pursue his Story.

Soon after his taking his Doctors Degree, he was recommended to be Chaplain of St. *Saviour's Southwark*, where he was Resident at the time of his Preaching this Sermon for the 5th of *November*; which it seems he presum'd to Print without any positive Command from the Lord-Mayor, and without and against the Order of the Court of Aldermen.

As to the tendency or Principles of the said Sermon; so much has been said already, and cry'd about the Streets, that I shall only take notice of the Parliament's just Resentment, I say just, because, by a former Vote, or Resolution of Lords and Commons, it had been render'd Scandalous and Seditious *To Write, Speak, Preach or Print, that the Church of* England *was in Danger*; but as to the Tenour or Greatness of his Fact, I will not pretend to make my self a Judge, only impartially relate the Proceedings of the Parliament against him, and as near as I can, repeat those Paragraphs or Places in his Sermons, especially the last that have given most offence.

They first take notice of the Dedication to his Assize Sermon, Preach'd at *Derby* the 15th of *August*, 1709. as consonant to that affix'd to his Sermon to the Lord-Mayor, which as some People may ne'er have read, and and others have forgot, I think proper here to insert as follows.

To the Right Worshipful George Sacheverel, *Esq; High-Sheriff of the County of* Derby, *and to the Honourable Gentlemen of the* Grand-Jury.

Gentlemen,

THE Peculiar Honour you were pleas'd to confer upon me after the Delivery of this plain Discourse, was so signal, that nothing less than this Publick Acknowledgment can acquit me of Ingratitude. Now, when the Principles, and Interests of our Church, and Constitution, are so shamefully Betray'd, and run down, it can be no little Comfort to all those who wish their Welfare and Security, to see, that notwithstanding the secret Malice, and open Violence they are Persecuted

with, there are ſtill to be found ſuch Worthy Patrons of both, who dare Own and Defend them as well againſt the Rude and Preſumptuous Inſults of the one ſide, as the Baſe, Undermining Treachery of the other; and who ſcorn to ſit ſilently by, and partake in the Sins of theſe Aſſociated Malignants.

Tho' the Truth ſeems to be ſo much forſaken at preſent, yet God be thank'd, they ſhall yet find to our Honour, that we have ſtill amongſt us thoſe who have Lives and Fortunes to Maintain it: And tho' the Age is ſunk into the loweſt Dregs of Corruption, that it cannot endure ſound Doctrine, there are not wanting ſome to preach it, and others to ſupport it, at the Expence of both. May the Influence of your good Examples, which as much Animates our Friends, as it Terrifies our Enemies, be as diffuſively Prevailing, as 'tis nobly Conſpicuous; and the Bleſſing of that Church attend you, which you ſo eminently Adorn, and Suſtain.

And, as I am oblig'd by the Relation I have the Honour to bear to your Family, may a double Portion of Divine Favour reſt on you (Mr. *High-Sheriff*) whoſe Command I was very ready to Execute in this Office, ſince you thought neither the Advancement of your Years, ſo generouſly Expended for the Good of your Country, nor the great Trouble attending the Poſt, ſufficient to exempt you, from ſhewing that ſteady Loyalty and Zeal to ſerve Her Majeſty and the Government, for which you have become remarkably Diſtinguiſh'd.

I am with all Regard, Gentlemen,

Your very Humble Servant,

Henry Sacheverel.

13 *December*, A Complaint being made to the Houſe of Two Printed Books, the one Entituled, *The Communication of Sin*, Preach'd at *Derby* Aſſizes; The other, *The Perils of Falſe Brethren*, &c. Preach'd at St. *Paul's*, *London*, and both Printed for *Henry Clements*: Which Books were deliver'd in at the Table, and ſeveral Paragraphs in the Epiſtle Dedicatory, of the firſt Book, and alſo ſeveral Paragraphs in the laſt Book were read.

Reſolv'd, the ſame Day, That the ſaid Books were Malicious, Scandalous and Seditious Libels, highly reflecting upon Her Majeſty, and Her Government, the late happy Revolution, and the Proteſtant Succeſſion as by Law eſtabliſh'd, and both Houſes of Parliament, and to create Jealouſie and Diviſons among them. And order'd that Dr. *Henry Sacheverel*, and *Henry Clements* did attend the Bar of the Houſe no the Morrow.

The next day the Dr. being call'd in, and at the Bar examin'd touching the ſaid Sermons, where he own'd the Preaching, and directing of the Printing and Publiſhing the Sermon Preach'd the 5 of *November* 1709 at St. *Paul's*. And the Dedication of it, and alſo, the Epiſtle Dedicatory to the Aſſize Sermon at *Derby*, was agreeable to that which he put to the Impreſſion of that Sermon which he directed to be Printed and Publiſh'd.

And after the Queſtion put, it Was reſolv'd that Dr. *Henry Sacheverel* ſhou'd be Impeach'd of High Crimes and Miſdemeanors. Likewiſe ordered that Mr. *Dobben* ſhould go to the Bar of the Lords Houſe, and in the Name of the Commons of Great *Britain* Impeach him, and acquaint them, that in due time the Commons wou'd Exhibit Articles against

against him, and then Order'd him to be taken into Custody of a Serjeant at Armes.

Afterwards the House resolv'd to draw up an humble Adress to Her Majesty that she wou'd be pleas'd to bestow some Dignity in the Church on Mr. *Benjaman Hoadly*, Rector of St. *Peters Poor* in *Broad-street*, for having often strenuously justified the Principiles on which Her Majesty and the Nation, proceeded in the late happy Revolution; which Address, was presented to Her Majesty. A few Days after he was accordingly Impeach'd at the Lord's Bar.

On the 17th of *December*, he Petition to be Bailled, and Precedents were ordered to be Search'd in that Case, but resolv'd in the Negative: So that he remain'd in Custody during the Adjournment of the Parliament for *Christmas*.

The Paragraphs most taken Notice were these following.

How often must they be told, that the King himself solemnly Disclaim'd the Least Imputation of Resistance in his Declaration; and that the Parliament declar'd. That they set the Crown on his Head, upon no other Title, but of the Vacancy of the Throne? And did they not Unanimously condemn to the Flames, (as it justly Deserv'd) that Infamous Libel, that would have Pleaded the Title of Conquest! by which Resistance was suppos'd? So Tender were they of the Regal Rights, and so averse to infringe the least Tittle of Our Constitution! We see how ready these Incendaries are to take the least Umbrage, to charge their own Cursed Tenets on the Church of *England*, to Drive their Guilt upon it, and quit Scores with it for Their Iniquity.

These *False Brethren* in our Government, do not Singly, and in Private spread their Poyson, but (what is lamentable to be spoken) are suffer'd to combine into Bodies, and Seminaries, wherein Atheism, Deism, Tritheism, Socinianism, with all the Hellish Principles of Fanaticism, Regicide, and Anarchy, are openly Profess'd, and Taught, to Corrupt and Debauch the Youth of the Nation, in all Parts of it, down to Posterity, to the Present Reproach, and Future Extirpation of Our Laws, and Religion. Certainly the Toleration was never intended to Indulge, and Cherish such Monsters, and Vipers in our Bosom, that scatter Their Pestilence at Noon-day, and will Rend, Distract, and Confound, the firmest and Best-setl'd Constitution in the World.

They are pleas'd now to soften their Lewd Principles, and cover their Dangerous Tenets with the Name of Speculative Opinions; but what Fatal Practices they have created, and whether these seditious Thoughts will not again *Exemplify* themselves in the same Bloody Actions, We shall be Convinc'd, to our Sorrow, if We don't Apprehend that Old Leaven of their Fore-fathers is still Working in their Present Generation, and that this Traditional Poyson still remains in this Brood of Vipers, to Sting Us to Death, is sufficiently Visible, from the Dangerous Encroachments They now make upon our Government, and the Treasonable Reflections They have Publish'd on Her Majesty, God Bless Her! Whose Hereditary Right to the Throne, They have had the Impudence to Deny, and Cancel, to make Her a Creature of their own Power, and that by the same Principles They plac'd a Crown upon Her, They tell Us They (that is the Mob may) Re-assume it at their Pleasure. Nay, now They have Advanc'd themselves from the Religious Liberty Our Gracious Liberty Our Gracious Sovereign has Indulg'd them, to Claim a Civil Right, as they Term it, and to Justle the Church out of Her Establish-

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sent, by Hoisting their Toleration into it's Place; and to convince Us what alone will satisfy 'em, insolently Demand the Repeal of the Corporation, and Test Acts, as an Ecclesiastical Usurpation, which indeed under Her Majesty (whom God long Preserve for it's Comfort and Support) is the only Security the Church has to Depend upon. An which they have so far Eluded by their Abominiable Hypocrisy, as to have Undermin'd Her Foundations, and Indanger the Government, by filling it with it's Profess'd Enemies. These Charges are so Flagrant, and Undeniable, that a Man must be very Weak, or something worse, that thinks or Pretends, the Dissenters are to be Gain'd, or won over by any other Grants, and Indulgences, than giving up our Whole Constitution: And he that recedes the least Tittle from it, to satisfy, or Ingratiate with these Clamorous, Insatiable, and Church-Devouring Malignant, knows not what Snirit They are of, or he ought to shew who is a True Member of Our Church. Have They not ever since their first Unhappy Plantation in this Kingdom, by the Interception of That False Son of the Church, Bishop *Grandhall*, always Improv'd, and Rise upon their Demands in the Permission of the Government? Insomuch that Queen *Elizabeth*, that was Deluded by that Perfidious Prelate to the Toletation of the Genevian Discipline, found it such an Headstrong, and Encroaching Monster, that in Eight Years, She foresaw it would Endanger the Monarchy, as well as the Hierachy: And like a Queen of True Resolution, and Pious Zeal for Both pronounc'd, *That such was the Restless Spirits of that Factious People, that no Quiet was to be Expected from them, till they were utterly Suppress'd*: Which, like a Prudent Princess, She did by Wholsome Severities, that the Crown for many Years sat Easy, and Flourishing on Her Head. And had Her Successor, King *James*, but follow'd Her Wise Politicks, His Son had never fallen a Martyer to their Fury, nor any of his Unhappy Offspring suffer'd those Diastrous Calamities, which made the Royal Family One continu'd Sacrifice to their Malice. And what better con'd have been expected from Miscreants, Begot in Rebellion, Born in Sedition, and Nurs'd up in Faction.

And now are we under no Danger in these Deplorable Circumstances? Must we lull our selves under this sad Repose, and in such a Stupid, Lethargie Security, Embrace our Ruine? When *Elisha*, the Great Prophet of God, was Surrounded with an Host of Enemies, that sought for his Life, his Blind Servant beheld not the Peril his Master was in, till his Eyes were open'd by Miracle, and he fouud himself in the midst of Horses and Chariots of Fire. I pray God we may be out of Danger, but we may remember the King's Person was Voted to be so, at the same time that his Murderers were Conspiring his Death. What I have thus freely spoken, I hope is as much without Offence, as it proceeds from a Good Intention, and a Tender Concern for Her Majesty's Person, and Government, and an hearty Zeal for the Honour and Safery of our Excellent Church and Constitution.

These FALSE BRETHREN will Renounce their Creed, and Read the Decalogue backward, be the very Reverse of our Blessed Saviour (whom like their Primattive Pattern, they first Sell, and then Betray) Fall down and worship the very Divil himself for the Riches and Honours of this World.

But this dismal Effect has such a State of Habitual Hypocrisy, that it quite Damps and Extinguishes both, Quenches the Holy Spirit of God, and Crucifies his Son afresh; and as it finds a Man void of Shame,

Generally

generally without a Miraculous Converſion leaves him incapable of Repentance, and both damns him here, and hereafter; and as he choſe it in this World, Appoints him in the next, his Portion with Hypocrites, and Unbelievers, with all Lyars that have their part in the Lake which burns with Fire and Brimſtone, with the Grandfather of Falſhood, the Devil and his Angels. And ſo here we leave our *Falſe Brethren* in the Company they always keep Correſpondence with.

Now what ſhould be the Reſult of this long Diſcourſe, but that if we bear any true Concern for the Intereſt, Honour, and Safety of our Church and Government, We ought ſtedfaſtly to adhere to thoſe Fundamental Principles, upon which both are Founded, and upon which their Security under God alone depends; and conſequently that it highly behoves us, cautiouſly to watch againſt, to mark, and avoid all thoſe that thus treacherouſly deſert them. And indeed it would be both for our Advantage, as well as their Credit, if ſuch Men would throw off the Mask, entirely quit our Church, of which they are no True Members, and not fraudulently eat her Bread, and lay wait for her Ruin, Purloin her Revenues, and ungratefully lift up their Heels againſt her. For then we ſhould be One Fold under One Shepherd, all thoſe Invidious Diſtinctions that now Diſtract and Confound us loſt, and we ſhould be terrible like an Army of Banners to our Enemies, who could never break in upon ſuch an Uniform, and Well compacted Body. This indeed would be a True Peace, and Solid Union, when we ſhould all with one Mind, and one Mouth, Glorifie God, and not with a Confus'd Diverſity of Contradictious Opinions, and inconſiſtent Jargon of Worſhip, which the God of Peace, Purity and Order cannot but abhor.

And let us Truſt in that Providence which ſo Miraculouſly Deliver'd her on this Day that tho' ſhe lies Bleeding of the Wounds ſhe has receiv'd in the Houſe of her Friends, tho' the ways of Zion may mourn for a Time, and her Gates be Deſolate, Her Prieſts Sigh, and ſhe in Bitterneſs, becauſe her Adverſaries are Chief, and her Enemies at preſent proſper; Tho' among all Her Lovers, ſhe has few to Comfort her, and many of her Friends have dealt Treacherouſly with her, and are become her Enemies, tho' there are few to guide Her among all her Sons that ſhe hath brought up, Tho' her Enemies Cry. Down with her Down with her even to the Ground, yet there is a God that can and *Raiſe* her up, *If* we forſake her not. *Let* us not therefore Ungratefully contribute to her Deſtruction, but Let us continue Stedfaſt, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, foraſmuch as we know that our Labour will not be in vain in the Lord.

On the 11 of *December* the Articles of impeachment having had a 3 Reading, were order'd to be carried up to the Lords, and were in Subſtance as follows.

I. That he was guilty of ſeveral high Crimes, and Miſdemeanors, Particularly by Preaching up, Maintaining, Advancing and Encouraging from the Pulpit, the exploded Doctrine of Paſſive Obedience, Non-Reſiſtance and Hereditary Succeſſion, againſt the Declar'd Principles of Parliamentary

mentary Limitation, in order to ſubvert the Laws of the Land and Liberties of the Subject, and directly againſt the Principles on which the Revolution was founded.

II. As alſo for Reflecting on the Toleration to the Diſhonour, Scandal and Prejudice of the preſent happy Eſtabliſh'd Government, as if it encourag'd Hypocrites and Schiſmaticks. &c.

III. That the Church of *England* was in Danger, notwithſtanding the late Reſolution of both Houſes of Parliament to the contrary; Reflecting on them by an odious Compariſon, that the Long Parliament voted King *Charles* I. his Perſon out of Danger, when the Murtherers were then actually Conſpiring his Death, by an Inuendo, as if the preſent P---- would do ſo by the Church.

IV. And laſtly, by Reflecting on the Miniſtry, rendring them Obnoxious to the People, in order to create a Miſunderſtanding between them and Her Majeſty, and thereby occaſion Sedition and Diſorder among the Subjects of *Great-Britain*; and many other Inconveniencies, as will more at large appear, when his Tryal before the Honourable Houſe of Lords, is Printed and Publiſhed.

Being afterwards deliver'd over to the Deputy-Uſher of the Black-Rod, he Petition'd the Lords to be Bail'd; which was Granted, and Dr. *Lancaſter* of St. *Martins*, in the Fields, and Dr. *Bowes* of *Oxford*, were his Sureties; and he has obtain'd Council to Plead his Cauſe on his Tryal.

Who accordingly appear'd for him laſt *Wedneſday*, and deſired till Thurſday next to give in their Plea; which was granted.

B L

FINIS